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Press Release

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Attorney General awards Clay Center for “Sesame Street Presents: The Body” exhibit

Charleston, W.Va. – West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw awarded the Clay Center a check for \$40,000 today. The money is intended to go toward the Avampato Discovery Museum’s exhibit “Sesame Street Presents: The Body,” and places the Attorney General as a sponsor of the exhibit. Officials from the Office of the Attorney General and the Clay Center, along with Senator Dan Foster, were on-hand for the event.

“The Clay Center is fortunate to have been selected as one of the locations to present this exhibit,” McGraw said. “Having the hands-on experiences, like the ones featured in the exhibit, are great for teaching children about their bodies and the habits that will keep them healthy.”

McGraw continued, “It’s great that schools have been able to bring their students here to experience the exhibit. You can tell they enjoy it, and the children are coming away having learned something about caring for their health. We know the rate of child obesity has been rising, which increases the risk for future health problems. Being proactive about stemming this is essential to the health of our future generations.”

“Sesame Street Presents: The Body,” is an interactive exhibit that increases awareness of nutrition, hygiene and safety, parental responsibility for healthy habits and the idea that healthy habits are easy to develop. The aim is to educate both children and parents on serious health issues and to convey that message in a fun and dynamic setting.

Schools across the state have been visiting the exhibit since its opening in October. With activities for all ages, the exhibit has been popular with children, from toddlers to teens. The four parts of the exhibit include areas on how the body works, the inside of the body, the outside of the body, and how to stay healthy. Various characters from Sesame Street are featured throughout the exhibit.

“Given the hectic pace of many people’s lives today, sometimes they place caring for their bodies to the side. While the effects of this may not be noticed initially, the long term effects can manifest themselves in the form of serious, sometimes chronic, health conditions,” McGraw continued, “This is evident in the high rates of heart disease and diabetes that plague our state. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in West Virginia, taking the lives of thousands each year.”

McGraw concluded saying, “I encourage everyone, both children and their parents, to visit the exhibit. Increased awareness of nutrition, hygiene and safety will benefit everyone, especially children as they are growing.”

McGraw spent yesterday in Morgantown, participating in a memorial ceremony for Pearl Harbor Day. McGraw was instrumental in the procurement of the mast of the USS West Virginia, which is now located on the campus of West Virginia University. He has attended nearly every Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony held at the mast since they began in 1975.



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